

## Message Text

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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

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USSALTTWO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, SOPN

SUBJECT: FEBRUARY 10 PRESS ROUNDUP

LONDON FOR AMB/EX

BERN FOR INDIAN OCEAN DELEGATION

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE ENTITLED  
"U.S. DECIDES TO STALL PARLEY WITH MOSCOW ON INDIAN OCEAN":

THE UNITED STATES, ANNOYED OVER THE SOVIET UNIONS' MILITARY  
INVOLVEMENT IN THE HORN OF AFRICA, IS ABANDONING EFFORTS TO  
ACHIEVE A QUICK AGREEMENT LIMITING NAVAL FORCES IN THE  
INDIAN OCEAN.

ALTHOUGH THE AMERICANS ARE CONTINUING TALKS ON A FORMULA  
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TO STABILIZE THE NAVAL BALANCE, A HIGH-RANKING GOVERNMENT  
OFFICIAL SAID TODAY THAT PROSPECTS FOR AN EARLY ACCORD HAD  
DECLINED.

UNTIL NOW, THE UNITED STATES HAD PUSHED THE IDEA OF AN  
INDIAN OCEAN PACT, AND ITS NEGOTIATORS, LED BY PAUL C.

WARNKE, THE DIRECTOR OF THE ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT AGENCY, BEGAN A NEW ROUND OF TALKS YESTERDAY IN BERN.

BUT IN AN INTERVIEW TODAY, THE OFFICIAL SAID IT WOULD BE "TOTALLY INCONSISTENT" FOR THE UNITED STATES TO ENTER INTO AN ARRANGEMENT THAT LIMITED ITS NAVAL POWER IN THE REGION WHILE THE RUSSIANS CONTINUED TO PROVIDE MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA IN ITS CONFLICT WITH SOMALIA.

FEW FORMAL SESSIONS SCHEDULED -- CONSEQUENTLY, AFTER DISCUSSING THE POSSIBILITY OF PULLING OUT OF THE NEGOTIATIONS ALTOGETHER, AMERICAN OFFICIALS ARE SAID TO HAVE DECIDED TO DOWNGRADE EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE AN AGREEMENT. ALTHOUGH THE MEETINGS ARE TO RUN FOR TWO WEEKS, ONLY A FEW FORMAL SESSIONS HAVE BEEN SCHEDULED AND OFFICIALS SAID THESE WOULD BE USED TO EXPRESS THE UNITED STATES' DISPLEASURE OVER SOVIET AID TO ETHIOPIA.

THIS POSITION MARKS A SHIFT FROM POLICY LATE LAST YEAR, WHEN PRESIDENT CARTER AND HIS AIDES EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT AN INDIAN OCEAN ACCORD MIGHT BE COMPLETED BY MID-1978. IN PART, IT REFLECTS A BELIEF THAT CONGRESS WOULD BE UNLIKELY TO APPROVE ANY AGREEMENT AS LONG AS THE SOVIET UNION CONTINUED TO PLAY AN ACTIVE ROLE IN THE SOMALI-ETHIOPIAN CONFLICT. OFFICIALS SAID THE DOWNGRADING OF THE NEGOTIATIONS WAS ALSO MEANT AS A SIGNAL OF THE POTENTIAL ADVERSE CONSEQUENCES FOR SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS.

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THE BERN NEGOTIATIONS ARE THE FOURTH ROUND IN A SERIES OF TALKS THAT STEMMED FROM MR. CARTER'S CALL LAST APRIL FOR AN AGREEMENT TO DEMILITARIZE THE INDIAN OCEAN. IN THE THREE EARLIER ROUNDS, THE AMERICANS SOUGHT SOVIET AGREEMENT TO A FORMULA FOR FREEZING THE EXISTING SIZE OF THE NAVIES.

ALTHOUGH THE RUSSIANS ARE SAID TO HAVE ACCEPTED THE IDEA, SOMALIA'S DECISION TO OUST THE SOVIET NAVY FROM THE PORT OF BERBERA IN OCTOBER INTRODUCED COMPLICATIONS. IN DECEMBER, THE TWO SIDES REPORTEDLY DISAGREED ON WHETHER THE UNITED STATES SHOULD NOW FORGO THE USE OF A NAVAL BASE AT DIEGO GARCIA TO COMPENSATE FOR THE SOVIET LOSS OF PORT FACILITIES IN SOMALIA.

DESPITE THESE DIFFERENCES, OFFICIALS SAID AN ACCORD WAS STILL POSSIBLE. BUT FRUSTRATED OVER THE SOVIET UNION'S APPARENT INATTENTION TO CRITICISM OF ITS ROLE IN THE HORN, OFFICIALS SAID THE UNITED STATES WAS NOW WILLING TO THREATEN SEVERAL COOPERATIVE SOVIET-AMERICAN ENTERPRISES,

INCLUDING THE INDIAN OCEAN TALKS, TO BRING PRESSURE ON MOSCOW.

2. CARL LEUBSDORF OF BALTIMORE SUN SAID CARTER ADMINI-

STRATION MOVED FEB. 9 TO IMPLEMENT PLEDGE FIRST MADE 10 YEARS AGO BY ASKING SENATE TO RATIFY TREATY UNDER WHICH U.S. WOULD ACCEPT INTERNATIONAL SAFEGUARDS ON NON-MILITARY NUCLEAR FACILITIES. LEUBSDORF SAID ACTION WAS PORTRAYED BY ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS AS LARGELY SYMBOLIC MOVE, DESIGNED "TO ENCOURAGE CONCEPTS THAT ACCEPTANCE OF STRINGENT INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS WILL NEITHER HAMPER NUCLEAR POWER DEVELOPMENT NOR RESULT IN COMMERCIAL DISADVANTAGE." IF TREATY IS RATIFIED, U.S. WOULD BECOME FIRST OF WORLD'S NUCLEAR WEAPONS POWERS TO ACCEPT SAFEGUARDS THAT 99 NON-UNCLASSIFIED

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NUCLEAR COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE SIGNED NPT ARE REQUIRED TO ACCEPT. SIMILAR RATIFICATION MOVE REPORTEDLY IS UNDER WAY IN BRITAIN. LEUBSDORF SAID TREATY IS CONSIDERED COMPANION STEP TO LEGISLATION PASSED BY CONGRESS THIS WEEK REQUIRING INTERNATIONAL SAFEGUARDS WITHIN 18 MONTHS FOR ALL OF 30 NATIONS WITH WHICH U.S. HAS BILATERAL AGREEMENTS TO SUPPLY NUCLEAR FUELS FOR COMMERCIAL PURPOSES. VERNON GUIDRY OF WASHINGTON STAR SAID TREATY WOULD HAVE "LITTLE FUNCTIONAL SIGNIFICANCE IN U.S. BEYOND SOME ADDITIONAL PAPERWORK FOR NUCLEAR FACILITIES HERE." VOLUNTARY SUBMISSION TO INSPECTION FIRST WAS PROPOSED BY JOHNSON IN 1967 AND SUBSEQUENTLY ENDORSED BY NIXON AND FORC. ASKED WHY FINAL, FORMAL STEP OF ASKING FOR SENATE RATIFICATION HAD NOT BEEN TAKEN UNTIL NOW, NSC STAFFER JESSICA TUCHMAN TOLD NEWSMEN, "THEY DIDN'T GET AROUND TO IT, I GUESS."

3. ERIC BOURNE OF CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR SAID BELGRADE CONFERENCE REACHES END OF ITS AGREED WORKING SCHEDULE FEB. 10 WITH NO ACCORD ON ITS CONCLUDING DOCUMENT IN SIGHT. AS THINGS STAND, TWO ALTERNATIVES PRESENT THEMSELVES, BOURNE REPORTED: ALLOW CONFERENCE TO DRAG ON BEYOND DEADLINE, OR SETTLE FOR BLAND DOCUMENT RECORDING BELGRADE MEETING FORMALLY REAFFIRMING 1975 HELSINKI DECLARATION AND AGREEING TO RECONVENE TWO YEARS HENCE. SOVIET DELEGATE PUBLICLY BRANDS WEST'S EMPHASIS ON HUMAN RIGHTS FOR FAILURE TO AGREE IN BELGRADE, MONITOR CORRESPONDENT SAID. BUT SOME VETERAN DIPLOMATS AND OBSERVERS SAY THERE MUST BE OTHER, DEEPER REASONS THAT MOSCOW IS HOLDING CONFERENCE AT DEADLOCK, HE ADDED. "CONCEIVABLY, THEY SAY, THESE INCLUDE NEUTRON BOMB." BOURNE SAID U.S. THREAT TO DEPLOY NEUTRON BOMB "APPARENTLY HAS COME TO MATCH IN SOVIET THINKING CURBS SOUGHT ON NEW STRATEGIC WEAPONS (SOVIET BACKFIRE BOMBER AND AMERICAN CRUISE MISSILE). VANCE

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